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P. B. FUND BOARDMEETS, AWARDS GRANTS

DPS 85249

NEW YORK (DPS, Dec 12) -- One and a half million dollars in new grants were awarded at the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief, held on November 17-19 at the Henry Chanucey Conference Center in Princeton, N.J.

Among the agenda items for the meeting, which was the last for retiring Presiding Bishop John M. Allin, who is its chairman, were the adoption of a budget of just under seven million dollars for the 1986 program; approval of grants of \$229,500 awarded for emergency, famine and special needs since the Executive Committee meeting in September, including a number of grants to the Church in South Africa and Namibia; and an address on the crisis in Africa by Dr. C. Payne Lucas, executive director of AFRICARE.

The Rev. Canon Samir J. Habiby, executive director of the Fund, set the theme for the meeting in his Famine Report on Africa:

"Africa is the home of more than half of the world's Anglicans and holds more than half of the world's natural resources.

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"The ugly scars of famine now mar the face of this continent, so richly endowed by nature, but already so severely disfigured by pre- and post-colonial political conflict, civil strife, festering economic ill health, burgeoning debts and the overthrowing of civilian governments by military regimes...

"The call to the Church is clear; to respond is our challenge. The Africa emergency is our own."

Special Appeal grants awarded amounted to \$545,701. These included major grants for famine relief, including increased rehabilitation assistance for northern Ethiopia; medical supplies and assistance for a health station in Eritrea, Ethiopia; medical assistance, wheat shipments, livestock and water projects, and development assistance for the Church of the Province of Kenya; a pump irrigation project for Mali, West Africa; and seeds, tools and food for the Diocese of Mityana, Uganda. Other grants assist children in St. Luke's Center for Mentally Retarded and Sudanese students at the Near East School of Theology, both in Beirut, Lebanon. Additional special grants totalling \$150,000 were voted for assistance to the Church of Uganda for the present emergency conditions in that country. Approval was also given for \$101,500 in special appeal grants for Africa famine response and \$24,000 for special support to Namibia, which had been disbursed since the previous Board of Directors' meeting.

Four hundred and fifty four thousand dollars in refugee/migration grants were awarded. Among the grants assisting overseas projects were \$10,000 to the Diocese of Hong Kong and Macao to help immigrants and displaced persons become resettled in communities and to provide health care and training for them; six thousand for the Burjel Chimali refugee camp in Tyre, Lebanon, to assist the embroidery workshop, which provides employment and income for women; \$19, 500 to the Church of Southern Africa for community social development, especially with relation to the employment of black residents who have been relocated; \$3,500 to the Diocese of Honduras for teaching language in schools; and \$38,00 to the Diocese of Jerusalem to provide vocational and business training for Palestinian refugees in the West Bank and Gaza Strip through the East Jerusalem YMCA Vocational Training Center.

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Domestically, refugee services grants included those to the Diocese of Ohio to support business and employment opportunities for Lao refugees to encourage self-sufficiency; to the Diocese of Olympia to provide training for volunteer counsellors to refugees in areas of employment, language and acculturation; to the Diocese of Washington for health and therapy projects for Central American refugees and immigrants; to the Diocese of California for support of the Cambodian refugee community in Oakland; and to the Diocese of Michigan for emergency assistance to African students cut off from sources for support because of civil strife or disasters.

New grants awarded for relief, rehabilitation, and hunger-related projects amounted to \$499,765. A few samples of these include \$21,000 to the Diocese of El Salvador for medical attention to some 4,800 patients; \$29,000 to the Church of Bangladesh for rehabilitation and reconstruction programs for helping families after cyclones, particularly with housing and pastoral care; \$8,000 to the Diocese of Panama for a health, nutrition and agricultural project; \$7,500 for the Swaziland Farmer Development Foundation in Southern Africa for an agriculture and food production program; \$10,000 to the Diocese of Los Angeles for food sustenance to families in temporary crisis; \$20,000 to the Diocese of the Rio Grande for St. Martin's Center for shelter and other assistance to the disadvantaged; \$25,000 to the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania for a coordinated relief effort for tornado victims; and \$31,000 to the Diocese of Washington for the Whitman-Walker Clinic's AIDS-related program.

Approval was given for \$104,000 in emergency grants disbursed since the previous meeting of the Board. Several disaster relief grants helped victims of floods in Puerto Rico and West Virginia, of earthquakes in Mexico, and of hurricanes in Mississippi. Other grants went for typhoon victims in three Provinces of the Philippine Islands, for emergency assistance for low-income Appalachian communities in the Diocese of North Carolina and for a rural crisis program in the Diocese of Iowa. Grants were also given for such emergency needs as food, medical supplies and clothing for Indian and Creole villages in Nicaragua, program support for a Women's Resource Center in the Diocese of West Virginia, and medical assistance for refugees in the Diocese of Costa Rica.

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During the meeting, Habiby was commended by the Presiding Bishop for his "total dedication and tireless leadership as executive director of the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief...during the period of the Fund's greatest growth and most effective service."

In addition to Allin, who received presentations of appreciation by the "Presiding Bishop's Fund Players," it was also the final meeting of the Board for the Rt. Rev. G. Edward Haynsworth, retiring executive for World Mission at the Episcopal Church Center, three Board members retiring after four years' service, and Frank V. Marshall, Jr., of Los Angeles, Chairman of the Executive Committee, who served on the Board for six years, two of them as its Chairman pro tempore. Marshall is treasurer of the Diocese of Los Angeles, and has served as Deputy to four General Conventions. The other outgoing board members were the Rev. James E. Folts, Diocese of Texas; Dixie Hutchinson, Diocese of Dallas, a member of the Executive Council who was the Fund's Refugee/Migration Committee Chair; and the Rev. Harry V. Nevels, Jr., Diocese of Ohio.

The Hon. Leonard S. Coleman, Jr., of the Diocese of New Jersey, was reappointed to the Board of Directors and named its chairman pro tempore and chairman of the Executive Committee. Coleman is Commissioner of Energy for the State of New Jersey. A black layman, he served as a missionary of Episcopal Church in Africa on the staff of the Christian Organizations Research Advisory Trust (CORAT) in Nairobi, Kenya, appointed to that post by Presiding Bishop-elect Edmond Browning while the latter was executive for World Mission.

The following new members of the Board were appointed by the Presiding Bishop: Marvin Bush of Washington, D.C.; the Hon. H. Eugene Douglas of West Texas and Virginia, former Ambassador-at-Large and United States Coordinator for Refugee Affairs; Carol Jan Lee of California; and the Rev. Claude E. Payne, Rector of St. Martin's Church, Houston, Tex.

Special guests who spoke at the meeting included the Rev. Colin Battell, Rector of St. Matthew's Anglican Church, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Mr. Kameel Nasir, a member of the standing committee of the Diocese of Jerusalem and general secretary of the Jordan and East Jerusalem YMCA; Dr. C. Payne Lucas, the principal speaker; and the Hon. Sichan Siv, minister counsellor, Khmer People's National Liberation Front and representative at the United Nations.

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AIDS CONFERENCE

PLANS TAKE SHAPE

DPS 85250

SAN FRANCISCO (DPS, Dec. 12) — The national Episcopal conference on the AIDS crisis, announced at the General Convention in Anaheim, has been scheduled for March 5 - 7 at Grace Cathedral here. Brochures detailing the agenda and conference speakers are being mailed; those wishing to participate are requested to contact their diocesan bishop.

Sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of California, with participation of the House of Bishops Task Force on the AIDS Crisis and the National AIDS Conference Task Force, the conference is being funded by The Episcopal Church Foundation, the Diocese of California and its Parsonage Ministry, and Integrity, the national organization of gay Episcopalians.

The purpose of the conference, according to its mission statement, is to "make available information from those having first-hand experience with persons with AIDS, their loved ones, and those concerned, in order to inform the Church and to help it prepare appropriate responses within local communities."

Conference goals are to establish a national Episcopal resources/support network on AIDS and to encourage individual dioceses to convene their own conferences on the health, discrimination, prevention, education and spiritual issues of AIDS.

Members of the House of Bishops Task Force on AIDS are the Rt. Rev. William E. Swing, bishop of California, chairman and convenor; the Rt. Rev. Manice Benitez, bishop of Texas; the Rt. Rev. William Burrill, bishop of Rochester; the Rt. Rev. Oliver Garver, suffragan bishop of Los Angeles; the Rt. Rev. Paul Moore, bishop of New York; and the Rt. Rev. Calvin Schofield, bishop of Southeast Florida.

Funding for a post-conference National AIDS Resource Center has also been secured. The Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief has announced a one-year grant of \$20,640 for operation of the Center. It will be based at The Parsonage in San Francisco and will offer assistance, current information and a national support network to diocesan AIDS task forces throughout the church.

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Principals for the National AIDS Conference in San Francisco include Holly McAlpin, social ministries coordinator, Diocese of California; Tom Tull, chair of The Parsonage; and conference co-chairs Bill Lorton, AIDS resource team member at General Convention, and Marion Cedarblade, General Convention Deputy working with the AIDS legislation, both of the Diocese of California.

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URBAN CAUCUS TO HOLD

SIXTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

DPS 85251

PITTSBURGH (DPS, Dec. 12) -- The sixth National Assembly of the Episcopal Urban Caucus will be held Feb. 26 - March 1 here. Incoming Presiding Bishop Edmond Browning plans to join those from across the country involved in social ministry in attending the meeting, which will be headquartered at the Westin William Penn Hotel.

The theme for the Assembly will be "Celebrate the City. Stir up the Church to be the Wounded, Loving Hands of Jesus". The Rev. William Boli of Saginaw, Mich., who heads the Assembly planning team, says, "We are going to meet in the heart of the 'Rust Belt'. Pittsburgh is a corporate center for many major industries, and yet the Monongahela Valley is a wasteland of closed steel mills, factories and warehouses. The contrast between corporate wealth and vast unemployment is greater in Pittsburgh than in any other American city."

"This city is a perfect setting for the Assembly to examine issues of economic justice in America today," said Caucus President, the Hon. Byron Rushing of Massachusetts.

The Assembly's keynote speaker will be economist Dr. Howard Stanback, currently on academic leave to assist the Mayor of Chicago. The Assembly also will hear labor and business leaders, politicians and the unemployed offer their perspectives on the economics of the Monongahela Valley. Representatives of The Consultation, a coalition of progressive groups who worked together at the recent General Convention, will share their future agendas with Assembly participants.

Boli has announced that the board of the Urban Caucus has set aside \$2,500 for scholarships to help low income or unemployed persons attend the Assembly. The money is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

In addition to workshops, plenaries, elections and business sessions, daily worship is scheduled, and the Assembly's closing Eucharist will be held in Pittsburgh's Trinity Cathedral. Trinity's Dean, the Very Rev. George Werner, has worked closely with the Assembly's planners.

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The registration fee, which includes the banquet, all workshops, travel pool and Caucus dues, is \$95. The Westin William Penn has provided a special rate for Assembly participants, and private housing is available upon request. For further information on the Assembly or to register, contact the Rev. William Boli, 720 Tuscola Street, Saginaw, MI, 48607.

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CUBAN CHURCH GROUP

VISITS USA

DPS 85252

NEW YORK (DPS, Dec. 12) -- A five man delegation of heads of churches and leaders of the Ecumenical Council of Cuba paid a 10-day visit to the United States in late November in order to "strengthen and deepen" the relationships with the main United States denominations.

In a visit with staff members of the Episcopal Church Center, Adolfo Ham, president of the Council, said that important changes have been taking place in Cuba in the last few years. He noted that leaders of the Council met for the first time with Cuba's President Fidel Castro in November and discussed matters of common concern for more than three hours. Castro also held a similar meeting with Roman Catholic bishops. Both events have no precedent in Cuba's 27-year old revolution.

Ham added that Castro said that the churches can make a "moral and ethical contribution" to Cuban life. He said that Castro is writing a book on religious issues, which will be published in Cuba early next year. The first edition will have 500,000 copies, he said.

"It is not easy to be a Christian in Cuba," said Methodist Bishop Armando Rodriguez, but "we must make a witness if we are going to be faithful to our calling." He said that his church had 50 American missionaries at the time of the revolution but that all had left within a short period of time, along with many national pastors. "We certainly had to start from scratch," he pointed out.

Episcopal Bishop Emilio Hernandez, who joined the group later on, said that the Episcopal Church was not affected in the same way because "we only had three foreign missionaries and our church was under local leadership." He added that in recent years "a new spirit" is permeating the Church in Cuba and that he is optimistic about the future. "I think that the worst part is over," he said on several occasions.

The Cuban delegation came to the United States at the invitation of the National Council of Churches. Dr. Luis Felipe Carneado, a member of the central committee of Cuba's Communist Party and Minister of Religious Affairs, was unable to accompany the group because his visa

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was not granted by the United States government, even though National Council of Churches' staff members tried to convince State Department and White House officials of the importance of his presence among the Cuban group.

In a "friendly advice to the United States churches," the members of the Cuban delegation urged that Nicaragua not be isolated from the Christian community. "The present situation calls for more relations, not less," they said.

The delegation also said that the Cuban government is willing to build a home for retired clergy. "This will be a tremendous help for the mission of the Church in Cuba," Ham said, because at the present time it is very difficult to deploy the clergy due to the severe house shortage in Cuba." The home will be built by the government in cooperation with the churches, they said. It is expected that the churches will make a financial contribution toward that end.

While in the United States, Henandez learned that hurricane Kate had hit the north coast of Cuba and blown the roof off the Episcopal Church in Bacuranao, a small town near Havana, and also damaged other church properties in Camaguey Province.

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EPISCOPAL CHURCH HOSTS WCC

DISABILITIES NETWORK

DPS 85253

NEW YORK (DPS, Dec. 12) — Of the world's 500 million disabled people, eighty-five percent live in the Third World, according to World Council of Churches' disability consultant Lynda Katsuno.

Meeting at the Episcopal Church Center in mid-November with key U.S. religious leaders in the disability area, Katsuno shared information on a three-year project of the World Council, emphasizing Third World concerns.

Following the morning meeting sessions, the group attended a luncheon hosted by the Episcopal National Commission on Social and Specialized Ministries, which includes the Church's Task Force on Accessibility and Conference on the Deaf. There they were introduced to Presiding Bishop-elect Edmond Browning. Both commission members and the visitors spoke of being moved by the presence and sensitivity of Browning, who spoke to each of them, individually, as well as to the group.

Marcia Newcombe, staff officer for social and specialized ministries at the Episcopal Church Center, said that she "felt particular pride that we were the Church that hosted the meeting, because this is the first time they have met." Newcombe and Katsuno had originally met this spring, at a WCC-sponsored conference in Holland, and later, in Nairobi at the United Nations' meeting honoring the end of the decade of women.

Noting that the Episcopal Church's national Task Force on Accessibility has as one of its five goals the sharing of "information, insight and expertise...with our sister churches in the Anglican Communion," the group affirmed the importance of focusing future efforts on disability concerns of Third World countries. They cited some international model programs, including a village rehabilitation program in Western Mexico. The feasibility of holding a regional meeting for 1988 or 1989 in a country such as Thailand was explored, along with ways of facilitating network exchange.

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PICTURE CAPTION

Browning Meets With Disabilities Group

(85253) Geneva visitor Lynda Katsuno is introduced to Presiding Bishop-elect Edmond L. Browning by Marcia Newcombe, staff officer for social and specialized ministries at the Episcopal Church Center. Looking on are (left) Ima Jean Kidd, National Council of Churches, and Charlotte Hawkins-Shepard, consultant to the Episcopal Church on disability concerns.

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CHURCH REPORTS STIR

CONTROVERSY IN ENGLAND

DPS 85254

LONDON (DPS, Dec. 12) — Two reports, one by the Church of England and one ecumenical, have generated debate here recently.

The Church of England report, which comes out of a two-year study by an 18-member commission of clergy, industrialists and academic specialists appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, concluded that the policies of Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Government have contributed to "severe and increasing deprivation" in Britain's inner cities.

In calling for a national debate on the "moral basis" of the current government's economic policies, the report estimated that 20 -25 percent of the population of Britain lives at or below the poverty level. The authors wrote, "We wonder whether some politicians really understand the despair which has become so widespread in many areas of our country." They also noted the special position and authority of the Church of England, with the Queen as its nominal head, and expressed the belief that their Church, therefore, has "a particular duty to act as the conscience of the nation."

Recommendations from the Commission for possible presentation to the Church's new general synod included increasing taxes to enable: a raise in benefits for the unemployed and working poor, more jobs programs and more public housing. They also recommended the re-examination of tax breaks to home owners. The recommendations are in direct opposition to Thatcher's program, which is rooted in the reduction of the state's role in the economy and the promotion of private initiatives.

The report does not, however, reserve its criticism only for the government. A substantial portion of the document discusses the Church's failings in such areas as insufficient recruiting of black clergy for the inner cities and lack of adequate distribution of its resources.

Even before its official release, word of the report's findings leaked out, provoking anger and scorn from government and other conservative sources. The London Daily Telegraph referred to the

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report as "one of the eccentricities which have earned our bishops tolerant affection," and an unidentified Cabinet minister called it "pure Marxist theology."

In response, the church commission's chairman, Sir Richard O'Brien, a former industrialist who served two terms as Thatcher's chairman of the Manpower Services Commission, defended the report, saying he felt it deserved closer study. He also said, "I think no one in his right mind would ever classify me as a Marxist."

The ecumenical report was written by ten clergy as an analysis of the causes of the rash of civil disturbances which hit Britain this summer. During August, in particular, bands of youths roved areas of Birmingham and several other major cities, engaging in racially motivated looting, arson, and murder.

The report, which has been approved by 15 clergy leaders, including Anglicans, Roman Catholics, and a number of Protestants, concludes that "Violence is the fruit of injustice," and calls for all believers to unite in prayers for peace and healing in the wake of the riots.

Bishop Ronald O. Bowlby of the Diocese of Southwark, an inner-London diocese, told Religious News Service, "It is our duty to rouse those who live in comfortable Britain and make them see what is happening in uncomfortable Britain. The Church has not done enough — the problem is staggering.

"Although Britain is now richer than ever before, we are giving vast sums of money to those who do not need it and withholding it from those who do."

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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 1985

DPS 85255

The Most Rev. Robert Runcie
Archbishop of Canterbury

"Glory to God in the highest, and on
earth peace, good will towards men"

The heart of the message of Christmas is this -- the good news of God's entering our world in the birth of Jesus to share our lives, our suffering, even our death. And in so identifying with us, with our trials and tribulations, he turns them around, bringing good out of evil, compassion out of cruelty, hope out of horror. Let us hold on to this message as we look ahead, and as we remember a trying and troubled year for many parts of our Anglican family.

Throughout 1985 we have experienced famine in the Sudan and Ethiopia; continued conflict in Central America and the Middle East; revelation of atrocities in Uganda; riots on the streets of English cities; oppression and violence in South Africa; a devastating earthquake in Mexico City; communal conflict and refugees in Southeast Asia.

Perhaps South Africa has been most on our minds. Archbishop Philip Russell has led the Church there in a gentle but firm manner, making it clear that the Church can never support a system which treats men and women as less than human because of the color of their skin.

The prophetic witness of Bishop Desmond Tutu has caught the attention and warmed the hearts of many. His is a ministry characterised by a powerful mixture of courage, realism and humility. He knows his need of others: he cannot achieve lasting peace and goodwill in South Africa alone. He must maintain the support of his own people, and he must win the support of the white population and the government. He needs the practical sympathy of the international community and of the Church. I am regularly in touch with him, as are many others of you throughout the Anglican family. We pray that his moderate voice is not silenced.

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In South Africa, Uganda, Nicaragua, Argentina, Ireland, Britain, Mexico, Jordan and Sri Lanka, we are learning in the Communion that when one member suffers, we all suffer. And we are learning to express our common sympathy in ways which build up the common good.

Let us pray this Christmas that our common life and witness may bear glory to God in the highest, build peace on earth, and bear good will towards all.

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